

Background information sheet

Medical Research Future Fund

The Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) is a \$24.8 billion long-term investment supporting Australian health and medical research. The MRFF aims to transform health and medical research and innovation to improve lives, build the economy and contribute to health system sustainability.

MRFF funding is directed into four themes: Patients, Research Missions, Researchers and Research Translation.

Research Missions theme

[Research Missions](#) are large programs of work that aim to bring together key researchers, health professionals, stakeholders, industry partners and patients to tackle big health challenges. Missions are programs of work with ambitious objectives that are only possible through significant investment, leadership and collaboration.

This joint effort supports the discovery of new techniques and treatments, leading to healthier Australians.

There are eight current Research Missions and two new Missions to commence funding in the 2027-28 financial year:

- The [Australian Brain Cancer Mission](#) (ABCM) supports research into brain cancer treatments. It aims to double the survival rate and improve the quality of life of patients living with brain cancer.
- The [Cardiovascular Health Mission](#) (CVHM) brings together researchers, health professionals, industry and patients to make transformative improvements in heart and vascular health and stroke for all Australians.
- The [Dementia, Ageing and Aged Care Mission](#) (DAACM) supports older Australians to maintain their health and quality of life as they age, live independently for longer, and access quality care when they need it.
- The [Genomics Health Futures Mission](#) (GHFM) will help improve testing and diagnosis for many diseases, help personalise treatment options to better target and improve health outcomes, and reduce unnecessary interventions and health costs.
- The [Indigenous Health Research Fund](#) (IHRF) supports Indigenous-led research to tackle health issues facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It aims to improve health outcomes and close the gap on health mortality and morbidity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The [Million Minds Mental Health Research Mission](#) (MMMHRM) supports Australians with mental health issues by enabling access to new approaches to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and recovery.
- The [Stem Cell Therapies Mission](#) (SCTM) is investing in the development of innovative, safe and effective treatments that improve health outcomes, in partnership with patients and carers.
- The [Traumatic Brain Injury Mission](#) (TBIM) supports research to improve patient recovery after brain injury. This includes projects that predict recovery outcomes or identify effective care and treatments, to reduce barriers to living the best quality of life after a traumatic brain injury.

- [New] The Low Survival Cancers Mission (LSCM) aims to improve care and health outcomes for people with cancers where the 5-year survival rate is less than 50 per cent.
- [New] The [Reducing Health Inequities Mission](#) (RHIM) supports research that improves access to high quality health services by priority populations.

Overall, over \$2.3 billion has been made available for MRFF Research Missions from 2016-17 to 2033-34.

Collectively, the 10 Research Missions above make up the MRFF Research Missions theme. The term 'MRFF Research Missions program' will be used when referring to the MRFF Research Missions theme.

Purpose and scope of this Evaluation

The Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (department) is undertaking an **evaluation of the MRFF Research Missions program** (Evaluation) to:

- Determine how Research Missions sit in the national and international research funding landscape.
- Determine contribution and progress at the individual Mission (initiative) level.
- Determine contribution and progress of the Research Mission program (theme) as a whole.
- Identify opportunities to improve the impact of the Research Missions.
- Provide evidence to support government decision whether to extend or cease individual Research Missions at completion of the 10-year tenure.

The Evaluation questions are:

1. How do MRFF Research Missions sit in the national and international research funding landscape?
2. What is the alignment and contribution of funded research across and between Missions?
3. What progress and impact has Mission-funded research had towards benchmarks?
4. What are the opportunities to improve the impact of MRFF Research Missions?